

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DHA-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

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FM AMEMBASSY LIMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2290

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C O N F I D E N T I A L LIMA 9512

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SHUM, PINS, SOPN, PE, PINT

SUBJECT: INTERNAL SECURITY AND HUMAN RIGHTS

REF: STATE 251305, LIMA 9362, LIMA 9407

1. INTERIOR MINISTER CISNEROS, IN AN INFORMAL OCTOBER 14 AIRPORT INTERVIEW, COMMENTED ON THE TWO CASHIERED MILITARY OFFICERS IN ASYLUM IN THE VENEZUELAN EMBASSY (LIMA 9362) AND CONFIRMED THAT THE THIRD OFFICER IMPLICATED IN FAR-LEFT ACTIVITIES, CAPTAIN HECTOR PORTELLA LAGUNA, HAS BEEN DETAINED. HE SAID THAT THE FACT THAT CAPTAIN ELOY VILLACREZ RIQUELME AND MAJOR JOSE FERNANDEZ SALVATECCI SOUGHT ASYLUM IN THE VENEZUELAN EMBASSY IS A "CLEAR DEMONSTRATION THAT THEY FEEL RESPONSIBLE FOR THE SUBVERSIVE ACTIVITIES THAT THEY HAVE BEEN CARRYING OUT". HE ADDED THAT THE GOP HAS PROOF THE THREE "RETIRED" OFFICERS WERE CONNECTED WITH THE MOVEMENT OF THE REVOLUTIONARY LEFT (MIR) WHICH IN TURN IS TIED TO THE EJERCITO POPULAR PERUANO (EPP).

2. ALSO IN THE AREA OF INTERNAL SECURITY, LA PRENSA REPORTED ON OCTOBER 15 THAT THE GUARDIA CIVIL (UNIFORMED POLICE) WITHIN THE LAST WEEK HAS ROUNDED UP MORE THAN 4,000 KNOWN CRIMINALS, DELINQUENTS, ABANDONED CHILDREN AND PROSTITUTES IN LOWER-CLASS NEIGHBORHOODS AND PUEBLOS JOVENES ON THE SOUTHERN OUTSKIRTS
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OF LIMA. THE ARTICLE SAYS HAT THE ROUND-UPS WILL CONTINUE

PERMANENTLY IN ORDER TO INSURE LAW AND ORDER IN THESE NEIGHBORHOODS.

3. COMMENT. IN THE WAKE OF AN ABORTIVE NATION-WIDE STRIKE OF MUNICIPAL WORKERS (LIMA 9407), THE RECENT CRACKDOWN ON CRIME IS A NOT-TOO-SUBTLE WARNING TO LOWER-CLASS RESIDENTS OF MARGINAL NEIGHBORHOODS TO KEEP THE LID ON THEIR DISCOMNTENT, WHETHER ECONOMICALLY OR POLITICALLY MOTIVATED. PRESS SOURCES TOLD THE EMBASSY THAT THE POLICE ENGAGED IN OCTOBER 14 HOUSE-TO-HOUSE SEARCH IN LIMA'S PUEBLOS JOVENES IN QUEST OF ARMS AND POLITICAL EXTREMISTS AS WELL AS CRIMINAL ELEMENTS. SOURCES SAID IT WAS THE LARGEST ROUND-UP OF PERSONS WITHIN MEMORY ALTHOUGH THE POLICE PERIODICALLY PUT OUT A DRAGNET FOR CRIMINALS AND VAGABONDS. THE EMBASSY DAO HAS HEARD THAT A THIRD ARMY OFFICER IS NOW IN THE VENEZUELAN EMBASSY SEEKING ASYLUM. ALTHOUGH CISNEROS CLAIMED THAT CAPTAIN PORTELLA HAS BEEN DETAINED, HE MAY HAVE ENTERED THE VENEZUELAN EMBASSY. THE OTHER TWO OFFICERS HAVE NOW APPARENTLY LEFT FOR VENEZUELA.
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